

REMARKS

Applicants file this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 in response to the Final Office Action issued on November 19, 2003. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-45 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-8, 27-30, and 32-45 have been allowed.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's finding that claims 11, 13, 14, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25 and 26 allowable if written in independent form.

At page two of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9, 10, 12, 15, 17, 18, 21, 24 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jarrett, U.S. Patent No. 6,044,551, issued on April 4, 2000.

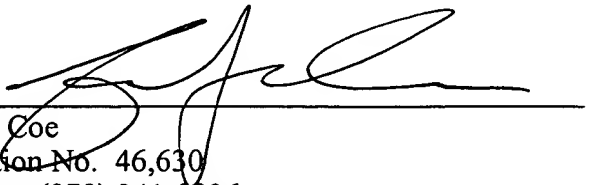
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of previous arguments made on page 13, lines 1-18 of Applicant's Amendment filed on October 6, 2003. The Examiner suggested that the claim language in independent claims 9, 15, 21, and 24 did not clearly include the features discussed by Applicant. Applicants have amended claims 9, 15, 21 and 24 as suggested by the Examiner to clarify the features of the claimed invention. Therefore, those claims, as well as claims dependent therefrom are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 12/16/03